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PAST FEARS STARTS HERE!

155

THOMPSON
NADLER
PERALTA
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PAST FEARS
CHAPTER 1

PULLED FROM HIS OWN ERA AND RAISED IN A FAR-FLUNG FUTURE, NATHAN SUMMERS HAS TRAVERSED TIME IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE HUMAN AND MUTANT ALIKE. HE IS THE LINK BETWEEN THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE. HE IS KNOWN BY MANY NAMES, BUT TO MOST HE IS SIMPLY THE MAN CALLED…

CABLE

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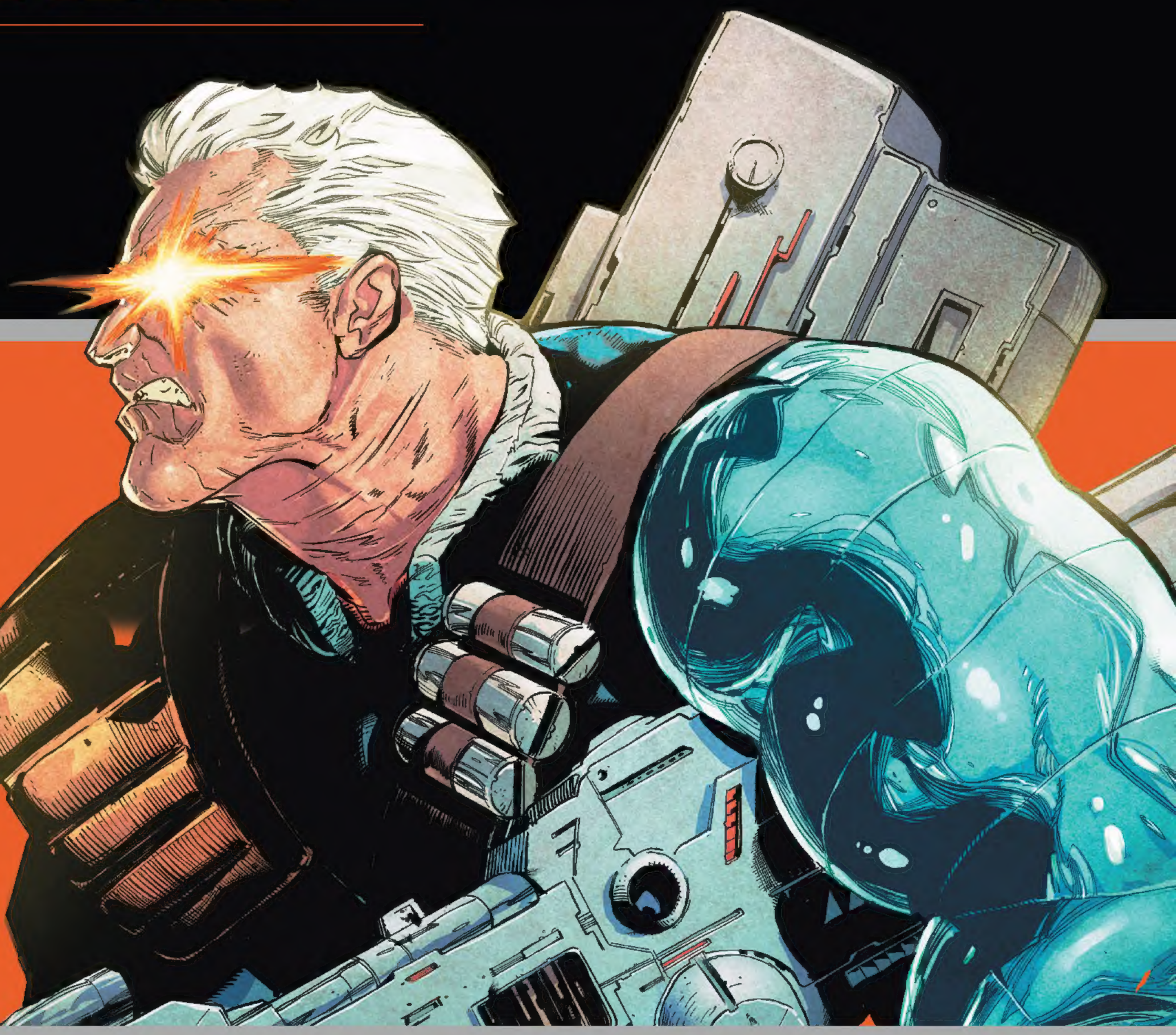

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THE FEAR CLATTERS IN MY BRAIN.

PULLING ME BACK TO CHILDHOOD. DRAGGING ME THROUGH THE DARK PAST.

I'M SUPPOSED TO FOCUS ON THE FUTURE, BUT SOMETIMES MEMORIES CREEP UP AND TAKE CONTROL.

WHEN YOU GROW UP WITH A TECHNO-ORGANIC VIRUS THREATENING TO CONSUME YOUR BODY, FEAR BECOMES PART OF YOU.

REDD!

SLYM!

FEAR OF NEVER BEING WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE...

...OF BEING LEFT ALONE...

...OF LOSING CONTROL AND BECOMING A *MONSTER.*

MY EYE!

AHHH!!!

HELP ME!

BECAUSE THAT'S WHEN YOU CAN HURT THE PEOPLE CLOSE TO YOU.

THE VIRUS TURNS LIVING TISSUE INTO TECHNOLOGY. I ALONE CAN KEEP IT AT BAY USING MY TELEKINESIS.

IT'S SOMETHING MY PARENTS STRUGGLED TO TEACH ME.

I'VE NEVER STOPPED BEING AFRAID...

...FEAR IS ONE OF THE FEW THINGS THAT TRANSCENDS TIME.

OSAKA, JAPAN. 2049.

THINGS GET ALL MIXED UP WHEN YOU'VE BEEN LEAPING THROUGH THE TIME-STREAM FOR MONTHS.

THINKING YOU KNOW THINGS BEFORE THEY HAPPEN MESSES WITH YOUR HEAD. BUT I REFUSE TO SIT STILL.

BODYSLIDE BY ONE.

VOOSH

AIEEEE!!!

VOOSH

SOMEONE HAS TO PROTECT THE FUTURE FROM TIME-TRAVELING, MUTANT-HUNTING SENTINELS LIKE ***NIMROD.***

REALLY? YOU MADE ME HUNT A ONE-ARMED MAN?

NOTATION: CHILD HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS MUTANT.

SKZARK

@#&$.

ZTAK

STATEMENT: CHILD HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THREAT TO FUTURE. CHILD WILL BE TERMINATED.

STAY BACK.

ビデオゲーム

ZCHOOM

STATEMENT: INTERNAL SYSTEMS ERROR. VIRUS DETECTED. CRITICAL MALFUNCTION...

<LET'S GET YOU BACK HOME.>*

<DON'T WORRY. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY.>

<WHOA! ARE YOU A ROBOT, TOO?!>

<NO, I'M A *MUTANT*, LIKE YOU.>

*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.

KYOTO, JAPAN.

8:41

<YOUR DAUGHTER WILL BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH MACHINES ONE DAY.>

<BECAUSE OF THAT, SHE'LL PLAY A PERTINENT ROLE IN THE WAR BETWEEN SENTINELS AND MUTANTS.>

<HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT?>

<WE'RE GRATEFUL, BUT WHAT CAN WE POSSIBLY DO?>

<WHATEVER YOU CAN TO KEEP HER SAFE. SUPPORT HER EVEN IF SHE MESSES UP. KEEP HER HIDDEN UNTIL HER POWERS DEVELOP.>

<WHAT DO WE DO THEN? WILL YOU COME BACK?>

<NO. THE *X-MEN* OF THIS ERA WILL FIND YOU. UNTIL THEN, YOU HAVE TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE. YOU CAN'T STAY HERE.>

<I DON'T WANNA LEAVE. I LIKE IT HERE.>

<IF YOU DON'T GO, THE SENTINELS WILL CONTINUE TO HUNT YOU AND I MIGHT NOT BE HERE IF THEY CATCH YOU.>

TIMESLIDE BY THREE.

<WHERE WILL WE GO?>

8:42

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA. 2070.

<THE FUTURE. IT'S THE LAST PLACE THEY'LL LOOK. MY PARENTS MADE THE SAME SACRIFICE FOR ME WHEN I WAS A CHILD.>

<MY DAUGHTER USED TO GET TIMESLIDE SICKNESS. IT'LL PASS.>

HUURGK!

NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU GO, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE REMINDED OF THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU.

THE PRESENT. CABLE'S SAFE HOUSE.

EVERY TIMELINE VEERS TOWARD ENTROPY, ENSURING YOU CAN'T RUN FROM YOUR PROBLEMS FOREVER.

I HAVE TO MAKE AMENDS. EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST, AND I SURE AS HELL HAVE REGRETS...

...MY DAUGTHER DESERVES BETTER.

X-MANSION. CENTRAL PARK, NY.

HOPE SUMMERS. TO WHAT DO WE OWE THIS PLEASURE?

HEY, KITTY. HOW'S LIFE AS X-MEN HEADMISTRESS?

STILL TRYING TO LIVE UP TO THAT LOFTY TITLE. HOW'S LIFE AS A HERMIT?

GOING A LITTLE STIR-CRAZY AND GETTING PRETTY LONELY. THOUGHT YOU GUYS COULD USE THE COMPANY.

IF YOU'RE JUST HERE TO HANG OUT, IS THE GUN REALLY NECESSARY?

YES.

LIKE FATHER LIKE DAUGHTER. I'M SURE CABLE WOULD BE PROUD.

YOU'RE GETTING THE SUPREME PACKAGE. PRIVATE ROOM WITH A VIEW. EN SUITE BATHROOM. FREE PASS TO ANY CLASS YOU FEEL LIKE SITTING IN ON.

THANKS, KITTY.

CAN'T PROMISE IT'LL BE QUIET AT NIGHT AROUND HERE.

I'VE SLEPT THROUGH WORSE.

MAYBE YOU CAN TEACH THE KIDS A CLASS ABOUT GATHERING INTEL WHEN YOU'RE FEELING UP TO IT.

I'M JUST HERE FOR THE COMPANY.

YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.

LATER THAT NIGHT...

HOPE.

DAD?

WHAT THE--

ZCHOOM

HEH.

YOU'RE THE SOURCE OF HIS FEAR.

DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

I...NEVER FORGOT.

THEN YOU'RE THE SAME. YOU SHARE DADDY'S FEAR.

NOTHING SCARES NATHAN SUMMERS.

WRONG. HE'S BEEN LOOKING OVER HIS SHOULDER ALL HIS LIFE.

HE'S RUNNING AWAY 'CAUSE OF YOU.

BUT HE'LL COME BACK.

IF YOU'RE HERE TO KILL ME, GET IT OVER WITH.

KILL YOU? NO.

I WANT HIM TO *SUFFER.*

LIKE HE MADE ME. HE MUST KNOW I HAVEN'T GONE AWAY.

SHOW HIM WHAT I'VE DONE.

THE NEXT DAY.

I'VE DEFEATED *APOCALYPSE*. SINGLE-HANDEDLY TAKEN ON *THE AVENGERS*. I'VE STOPPED THE WORLD FROM ENDING...

...SO. BEING AT THE X-MANSION TO TALK TO MY DAUGHTER SHOULDN'T FEEL IMPOSSIBLE. BUT IT DOES.

I FIGURED IT WAS A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU SHOWED UP.

NICE TO SEE YOU TOO, KITTY.

SOMETHING ATTACKED HOPE LAST NIGHT. SHE SAID IT WAS LOOKING FOR *YOU*.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHERE IS SHE?

SHE'S SAFE, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF SHE WANTS TO SEE YOU.

I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T SEEN OR TALKED TO HER FOR MONTHS. YOU'VE BEEN GALAVANTING AROUND ON YOUR SELF-ASSIGNED "TIME COP" MISSIONS BUT--

I WON'T ASK AGAIN. WHERE'S HOPE?

NATHAN, LOOK. LET ME TALK TO HER. I'LL TELL HER YOU'RE--

VOOSH

BODYSLIDE BY ONE.

--HERE... @&$#.

DAD.

HI, HOPE.

HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?

I PUT A TRACKING DEVICE ON YOU WHEN YOU WERE EIGHT.

WHEN I WAS EIGHT?!

BODYSLIDE BY TWO.

VOOSH

HUURGK!

STILL MAKES YA SICK, *HUH?*

IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

IT DID THAT TO YOUR FACE... DAMN IT. IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN.

WHAT IS THAT THING? I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE.

ITS NAME IS ***METUS.*** A TECHNO-ORGANIC MONSTER THAT'S BEEN FOLLOWING ME SINCE I WAS A CHILD.

IT'S DESPERATE AND DANGEROUS.

THAT THING KNEW YOU WERE COMING. IT SAID IT WANTS YOU TO SUFFER. WHY?

A LONG TIME AGO I LOST CONTROL. I MADE A MISTAKE AND I'VE BEEN PAYING FOR IT EVER SINCE.

BUT WHY ME? WHY NOT JUST GO TO YOU?

METUS WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE I LOVE. TO ENSURE I'M ALONE.

WHEN I *FIRED* YOU FROM X-FORCE,* I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO DISAPPEAR FROM MY LIFE.

YOU DON'T NEED ME TO PROTECT YOU ANYMORE.

I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO HOLD MY HAND, BUT I'D LIKE TO SPEND THE OCCASIONAL DAY WITH MY FATHER.

I *KNOW*. I'D LIKE THAT, TOO.

*SEE *X-FORCE (2015) #15!* --DS

I FORCED MYSELF TO BELIEVE I WAS A BETTER GUARDIAN THAN A FATHER...

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN *BOTH* TO ME.

HAVING ME IN YOUR LIFE PUTS US BOTH AT RISK. I HAD TO STAY AWAY TO KEEP YOU SAFE.

BUT JUMPING THROUGH TIME AND ISOLATING MYSELF TURNED ME INTO *WHAT I FEARED MOST.*

TRUST ME, YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IN THE FAMILY WHO THINKS BEING ALONE IS THE ANSWER.

WHEN I WAS A KID I LIVED UNDER THE REIGN OF *APOCALYPSE*, BUT WHAT KEPT ME UP AT NIGHT WAS THE THOUGHT OF MY PARENTS ABANDONING ME.

I WAS SCARED THEY THOUGHT OF ME AS A BURDEN.

THAT IF I COULDN'T CONTROL MY POWERS AND THE TECHNO-ORGANIC VIRUS, THEY'D LEAVE ME. AND I DID THAT TO YOU.

I'M SORRY, HOPE.

I APPRECIATE ALL THIS, DAD. BUT THERE'S A BIGGER ISSUE HERE.

WHAT'S THE PLAN OF ATTACK? HOW DO WE BEAT THIS METUS THING?

NO MORE RUNNING. I'M FINALLY STRONG ENOUGH TO BEAT IT AND TO FACE IT HEAD-ON.

THAT'S LITERALLY THE ***WORST*** PLAN YOU'VE EVER HAD.

DON'T BE SO STUBBORN. I'VE SEEN WHAT IT DOES TO YOUR MIND. YOU HAVE TO PREPARE, GO IN WITH A STRATEGY, GET A TEAM TOGETHER.

NO TEAM. NO OTHER STRATEGY. THIS IS THE ***ONLY*** WAY.

WILL YOU HELP ME?

NOT IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PLAN.

LATER.

THESE ARE FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS FOR METUS.

I'M ALONE, LIKE IT ALWAYS WANTED.

METUS CAN SENSE MY FEAR. IT HATES THAT I'VE SEEN HOPE. IT WARNED ME TO STAY AWAY. HOPE'S SCAR MADE THAT CLEAR.

TONIGHT, IT COMES FULL CIRCLE. TONIGHT, IT ENDS.

METUS IS NEAR. I CAN *FEEL* IT. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO.

ITS PRESENCE COURSES THROUGH MY ENTIRE BODY, SENDING MY VIRUS INTO OVERDRIVE.

HRN!

HELLO, DAYSPRING.

I SEE THE BIG GUNS STILL HELP YOU FEEL SAFE, *OLD MAN!*

I'VE HAD DECADES TO LEARN WHAT MAKES YOU WHIMPER.

ZCHOOM

ZCHOOM

SKREE!!!

@$%#!

YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR YEARS. I'VE BEEN WITH YOU *ALL ALONG.*

YOU FORGET MY POWER.

I ALONE KNOW WHAT YOU DID...

ARRRGGHH!

"...AND I WILL DRAG YOU BACK."

HOPE, RUN!

NATE, WATCH OUT!

I'M SORRY, DOMINO...

I'VE GOT THIS!

NATHAN, I NEED YOU TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

YOU'LL *ALWAYS* BE ALONE.

YOU WILL UNDERSTAND MY MISERY.

HOPE!

I FEEL YOUR FEAR. DON'T WORRY, DAYSPRING. THIS IS FAR FROM THE END.

WHEREVER YOU GO, I FOLLOW.

ANY TIME NOW!

HEY!

GET THE %@$# AWAY FROM HIM!

ZOOM

ABBOTT

HOPE, THIS IS OUR CHANCE. JUST LIKE WE TALKED ABOUT. MIMIC MY TELEKINESIS...

WE *BOTH* HAVE TO HOLD HIM.

YES, SIR.

DAD... WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE DONE A LONG TIME AGO.

GIVE IT... *BACK.*

YOU'VE TAKEN...TOO MUCH FROM ME...

STOP! OH MY GOD. WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

AAAAARGH!

HOPE...

DAD?

DON'T... WORRY. EVERYTHING'S... GOING TO BE... OKAY.

TO BE CONTINUED!

CABLE

NEXT MONTH...

CABLE #156
BISHOP IS BACK!

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ON SALE NOW

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ZONE